

SWOSU Tech Trek Accepting Nominations for Math and Science Camp for Girls

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Rising eighth grade girls from Oklahoma will have the opportunity this summer to experience a Tech Trek STEM camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Campers stay on campus during the week of Tech Trek while they learn about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics); perform experiments and hands-on activities; and interact with female role models who are already working in STEM fields.

Aside from a \$50 registration fee, the camp is provided free of charge to Oklahoma residents. This is made possible by the generous supporters of Tech Trek at SWOSU, which currently include Marathon Oil, Devon Energy, Salsa CRM, Horton Photography Studios and individual donors from the Weatherford area.

Teacher nominations of campers are now being accepted online through Monday, January 30, at 9 a.m. The 2017 camp will be held July 16-22 and will mark the 5th anniversary of Tech Trek at SWOSU.

Tech Trek Planning Committee members are looking for Oklahoma girls who are currently in seventh grade; are excited by math and science; want to learn more about computer science and engineering; have at least a “B” average with the potential to excel; have not necessarily had the opportunity for experiences like Tech Trek; and have a high level of maturity when interacting with peers. After being nominated, girls will be asked to complete a camper application and undergo a “get-to-know-you” phone interview. Up to 45 girls will then be selected to attend Tech Trek at SWOSU.

“Tech Trek is an educational and fun way to bring girls together who share an interest in science and math,” said Camp Director Lisa Appeddu. “They are able to explore the different fields of STEM and related careers in a positive environment. Tech Trek provides the opportunity for girls to see the benefits of expanding their education and making a difference in the future of Oklahoma.”

Tech Trek at SWOSU is one of 21 sites across the United States conducting this national program. Last year, 44 girls from across the state participated in the fourth year of Tech Trek at SWOSU. Tech Trek is one of AAUW's goals to encourage girls to pursue a higher education and to increase participation of women in the STEM fields.

For more information about the camps, nomination materials, volunteer opportunities, or to donate to Tech Trek, please visit the website www.swosu.edu/academics/tech-trek or email techtrek@swosu.edu.